

01-22-04



PTO/SB/21 (03-03)

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TRANSMITTAL
FORM

(to be used for all correspondence after initial filing)

	Application Number	10/618,353
	Filing Date	July 11, 2003
	First Named Inventor	Jean-Marie Mathias
	Art Unit	/
	Examiner Name	
Total Number of Pages in This Submission	Attorney Docket Number	F-5932

ENCLOSURES (Check all that apply)		
<input type="checkbox"/> Fee Transmittal Form	<input type="checkbox"/> Drawing(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> After Allowance Communication to a Technology Center (TC)
<input type="checkbox"/> Fee Attached	<input type="checkbox"/> Licensing-related Papers	<input type="checkbox"/> Appeal Communication to Board of Appeals and Interferences
<input type="checkbox"/> Amendment/Reply	<input type="checkbox"/> Petition	<input type="checkbox"/> Appeal Communication to TC (Appeal Notice, Brief, Reply Brief)
<input type="checkbox"/> After Final	<input type="checkbox"/> Petition to Convert to a Provisional Application	<input type="checkbox"/> Proprietary Information
<input type="checkbox"/> Affidavits/declaration(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> Power of Attorney, Revocation	<input type="checkbox"/> Status Letter
<input type="checkbox"/> Extension of Time Request	<input type="checkbox"/> Change of Correspondence Address	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other Enclosure(s) (please identify below):
<input type="checkbox"/> Express Abandonment Request	<input type="checkbox"/> Terminal Disclaimer	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement	<input type="checkbox"/> Request for Refund	
<input type="checkbox"/> Certified Copy of Priority Document(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> CD, Number of CD(s) _____	
<input type="checkbox"/> Response to Missing Parts/Incomplete Application		
<input type="checkbox"/> Response to Missing Parts under 37 CFR 1.52 or 1.53		
Remarks		
Other Enclosures:		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - PTO-1449 (8 Pages) - PTO/SB/08A (4 Pages) - Cited Foreign References - Return Postcard 		

SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT

Firm or Individual	Andrew G. Kofomayets	
Signature		
Date	January 20, 2004	

CERTIFICATE OF TRANSMISSION/MAILING EXPRESS MAIL NO. EV 321711715 US

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to the USPTO or deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as ~~XXXXXX~~ in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, ~~Washington, DC 20231~~ on this date: **January 20, 2004** Express Mail

Typed or printed	Armando Ching		
Signature		Date	January 20, 2004

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PATENT
Attorney Docket No. F-5932

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:
Jean-Marie Mathias

Serial No.: 10/618,353

Filed: July 11, 2003

Examiner:

Art Unit:

For: Needle Protector

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING BY "EXPRESS MAIL"

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I hereby certify that this paper or fee is being deposited with the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office Box Addressee" service under 37 CFR 1.10 on the date indicated above and is addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

NAME: Armando Ching
(TYPED OR PRINTED)

SIGNATURE: Armando Ching

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Dear Sir:

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.97, as revised on February 4, 1992, 1135 OG 23-24, Applicants hereby call the Examiner's attention to documents listed on the attached form, which documents may be material to the examination of this application.

No inference should be drawn that any apparatus disclosed is equivalent to the subject invention. Also, the citation of the above-discussed documents is not to be construed as an assertion that more pertinent art could not possibly be in existence. Citation of any document herein is not to be construed as an admission that any subject matter disclosed in

the document is necessarily within the inventive field of endeavor, that any disclosure is necessarily prior in time to a particular date which may be relevant to the instant patent application, and/or that any disclosure is otherwise necessarily prior art with respect to the instant invention.

Applicants also respectfully reserve the right to later set forth how the instant invention is distinguished over the disclosure of any document or other art, including the disclosure of those documents discussed herein, that may be cited by the Examiner in rejecting a claim in the present patent application.

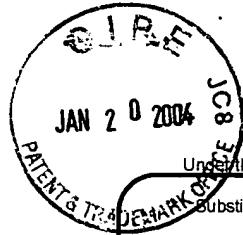
This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits. Accordingly, it is believed that no fee under 37 CFR 1.97(c) is required. If it is determined that a fee is required for this Information Disclosure Statement, please charge our Deposit Account No. 50/1039.

Respectfully submitted,



Andrew G. Kolomayets
Registration No. 33,723

COOK, ALEX, MCFARRON, MANZO,
CUMMINGS & MEHLER, LTD.
200 West Adams Street - #2850
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Substitute for form 1449/PTO

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT

(Use as many sheets as necessary)

Sheet 1 of 4

Complete if Known

Application Number	10/618,353
Filing Date	July 11, 2003
First Named Inventor	Jean-Marie Mathias
Art Unit	
Examiner Name	

Attorney Docket Number F-5932

U. S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Document Number	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Number-Kind Code ² (<i>if known</i>)			
1	US- 4,693,708		09-15-1987	Wanderer et al.	
2	US- 4,927,415		05-22-1990	Brodsky	
3	US- 4,943,283		07-24-1990	Hogan	
4	US- 5,067,490		11-26-1991	Haber	
5	US- 5,086,780		02-11-1992	Schmitt	
6	US- 5,120,320		06-09-1992	Fayngold	
7	US- 5,171,231		12-15-1992	Heiliger	
8	US- 5,176,650		01-05-1993	Haining	
9	US- 5,188,119		02-23-1993	Sunderland	
10	US- 5,192,275		03-09-1993	Burns	
11	US- 5,197,956		03-30-1993	Brizuela	
12	US- RE 34,223		04-13-1993	Bonaldo	
13	US- 5,242,417		09-07-1993	Paudler	
14	US- 5,290,264		03-01-1994	Utterberg	
15	US- 5,312,359		05-17-1994	Wallace	
16	US- D353,456		12-13-1994	Fayngold et al.	
17	US- 5,382,240		01-17-1995	Lam	
18	US- 5,401,250		03-28-1995	Shields	
19	US- 5,429,612		07-04-1995	Berthier	

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages Or Relevant Figures Appear	T ⁶
		Country Code ³ Number ⁴ Kind Code ⁵ (<i>if known</i>)				

Examiner Signature		Date Considered
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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT

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Application Number	10/618,353
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First Named Inventor	Jean-Marie Mathias
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Attorney Docket Number	F-5932

Sheet 2 of 4

U. S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Document Number	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Number-Kind Code ² (# known)			
	20	US- 5,429,613	07-04-1995	D'Amico	
	21	US- 5,495,855	03-05-1996	Dudar et al.	
	22	US- 5,498,241	03-12-1996	Fabozzi	
	23	US- 5,501,672	03-26-1996	Firth et al.	
	24	US- 5,554,130	09-10-1996	McDonald et al.	
	25	US- 5,562,636	10-08-1996	Utterberg	
	26	US- 5,562,637	10-08-1996	Utterberg	
	27	US- 5,643,220	07-01-1997	Cosme	
	28	US- 5,672,160	09-30-1997	Osterlind et al.	
	29	US- 5,672,161	09-30-1997	Allen et al.	
	30	US- 5,681,295	10-28-1997	Gyure et al.	
	31	US- 5,693,022	12-02-1997	Haynes	
	32	US- 5,704,917	01-06-1998	Utterberg	
	33	US- 5,704,920	01-06-1998	Gyure et al.	
	34	US- 5,704,924	01-06-1998	Utterberg et al.	
	35	US- 5,735,827	04-07-1998	Adwers	
	36	US- 5,746,718	05-05-1998	Steyn	
	37	US- 5,772,638	06-30-1998	Utterberg et al.	
	38	US- 5,795,339	08-18-1998	Erskine	

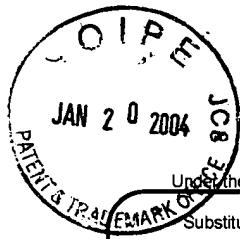
FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

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Sheet

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		Number-Kind Code ² (<i>if known</i>)			
39	US- 5,800,400		09-01-1998	Hogan	
39	US- 5,810,775		09-22-1998	Shaw	
40	US- 5,817,064		10-06-1998	DeMarco et al.	
41	US- 5,846,227		12-08-1998	Osterlind	
42	US- 5,851,196		12-22-1998	Arnett	
43	US- 5,891,098		04-06-1999	Huang	
44	US- 5,891,099		04-06-1999	Nakajima et al.	
45	US- 5,897,508		04-27-1999	Konrad	
46	US- 5,899,886		05-04-1999	Cosme	
47	US- 5,951,523		09-14-1999	Osterlind et al.	
48	US- 6,013,059		01-11-2000	Jacobs	
49	US- 6,042,570		03-28-2000	Bell et al.	
50	US- 6,093,170		07-25-2000	Hsu et al.	
51	US- 6,120,482		09-19-2000	Szabo	
52	US- 6,165,157		12-26-2000	Dillon et al.	
53	US- 6,193,694		02-27-2001	Bell	
54	US- 6,200,294		03-13-2001	Liu	
55	US- 6,235,005		05-22-2001	Chang et al.	
56	US- 6,235,006		05-22-2001	Dillon et al.	

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

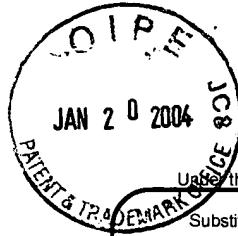
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages Or Relevant Figures Appear	T ⁶
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Sheet

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Examiner Name	

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U. S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Document Number	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Number-Kind Code ² (<i>if known</i>)			
57	US- 6,238,375		05-29-2001	Powell	
58	US- 6,287,278		09-11-2001	Woehr et al.	
59	US- 6,293,925		09-25-2001	Safabash et al.	
60	US- 6,302,868		10-16-2001	Mohammad	
61	US- D449,687		10-23-2001	Hommann et al.	
62	US- 6,309,376		10-30-2001	Alesi	
63	US- 6,319,233		11-20-2001	Jansen	
64	US- 6,325,781		12-04-2001	Takagi et al.	
65	US- 6,328,713		12-11-2001	Hollister	
66	US- 6,332,875		12-25-2001	Inkpen et al.	
67	US- 6,355,021		03-12-2002	Nielsen et al.	
68	US- 6,632,201		10-14-2003	Mathias et al.	
	US-				

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

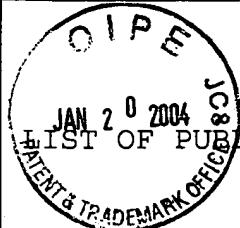
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages Or Relevant Figures Appear	T ⁶
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Attorney Docket No.
F-5932

Serial No.
10/618,353

Applicants
Jean-Marie Mathias

Filing Date
July 11, 2003

Group

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

EXAMINER INITIAL	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUB-CLASS	FILING DATE
	2,857,912	10/28/58	Feinstone et al.			10/27/55
	3,323,523	06/06/67	Scislowicz et al.			11/18/64
	3,568,673	03/09/71	Cowley			11/04/68
	3,572,334	03/23/71	Petterson			11/27/68
	3,595,230	07/27/71	Suyeoka et al.			07/25/68
	3,610,240	10/05/71	Harautuneian			06/13/67
	RE 27,797	10/30/73	Sorenson et al.			06/08/66
	3,910,272	10/07/75	Forberg			11/15/73
	4,068,659	01/17/78	Moorehead			07/12/76
	4,170,993	10/16/79	Alvarez			03/13/78
	4,329,989	05/18/82	Dallons et al.			02/23/81
	4,417,887	11/29/83	Koshi			09/28/82
	4,425,120	01/10/84	Sampson et al.			04/15/82
	4,573,976	03/04/86	Sampson et al.			05/24/84
	4,631,057	12/23/86	Mitchell			12/17/8

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

EXAMINER INITIAL	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUB-CLASS	TRANSLATION
	729,419	03/08/66	Canada			Y
	2 263 789	03/13/74	France			N
	0 265 159 A2	04/27/88	EPO			Y
	WO 90/03196	04/05/90	PCT			Y
	0 353 916 A1	07/02/90	EPO			Y

LIST OF PUBLICATIONS CITED BY APPLICANT	<u>Attorney Docket No.</u>	<u>Serial No.</u>
	F-5932	10/618, 353
	<u>Applicants</u> Jean-Marie Mathias	
	<u>Filing Date</u> July 11, 2003	<u>Group</u>

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EXAMINER INITIAL	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUB-CLASS	FILING DATE
	4,631,058	12/23/86	Raines			06/24/85
	4,643,722	02/17/87	Smith, Jr.			06/20/85
	4,664,654	05/12/87	Strauss			03/07/86
	4,676,783	06/30/87	Jagger et al.			09/03/85
	4,731,059	03/15/88	Wanderer et al.			10/14/86
	4,735,618	04/05/88	Hagen			
	4,737,143	04/12/88	Russell			05/12/86
	4,747,836	05/31/88	Luther			07/17/87
	4,790,828	12/13/88	Dombrowski et al.			08/07/87
	4,820,282	04/11/89	Hogan			09/29/87
	4,840,613	06/19/89	Balbierz			
	4,840,619	06/20/89	Hughes			05/26/88
	4,842,587	06/27/89	Poncy			07/15/87
	4,867,172	09/19/89	Haber et al.			
	4,874,383	10/17/89	McNaughton			12/08/87
	4,888,001	12/19/89	Schoenberg			06/01/88

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EXAMINER INITIAL	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUB-CLASS	TRANSLATION
	0 425 448 A2	02/05/91	EPO			Y
	0 459 953 A1	04/12/91	EPO			Y
	0 475 857 A1	03/18/92	EPO			N
	WO 92/11885	07/23/92	PCT			Y
	WO 95/24232	09/14/95	PCT			Y

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	F-5932	10/618,353
	<u>Applicants</u> Jean-Marie Mathias	
	<u>Filing Date</u> July 11, 2003	<u>Group</u>

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EXAMINER

DATE CONSIDERED

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP form. Draw a line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include a copy of this form with the next communication to applicant.